



# HEARD ACROSS MONTANA

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## Carl Hotvedt Heads Up PSSB

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

Carl Hotvedt has been named the acting bureau chief of Public Safety Services (PSSB). Most recently he worked on the state's network expansion project as the project manager, and previously was chief of the State of Montana's Network Technology Services Bureau.



He has over 25 years of experience in information technology and has a broad background in telecommunications, having served as the 2004 president of the National Association of State Telecommunications Directors (NASTD). This organization represents telecommunications and technology professionals from all 50 states, who play a strategic role in planning and shaping state government communications infrastructures, technology and services. Carl also used to oversee the 9-1-1 Program prior to the formation of PSSB.

We look forward to utilizing Carl's expertise to help make the Interoperability Montana Project successful and to assist the 9-1-1 Program achieve its goals. Welcome, Carl!

## IM Contract Management Meeting

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

The IM Contract Management (IMCM) Sub-Committee met in Helena on Friday, Jan. 30. Chair Scott Bradford began the meeting with a discussion of the microwave contract for the Northern Tier. Kevin Bruski, IM Executive Director, reported that the microwave hop between the Sullivan and Santa Rita sites is running error free and Roger Smith, Montana Highway Patrol, reported that successful connectivity tests have been run on the Deadman site in Roosevelt County.

Contract issues related to the installation of various microwave terminations are being researched. Terminators are used to absorb energy and prevent RF signals from reflecting back from open-ended or unused ports. Members also discussed upcoming site walks and punch list items that were generated after site walks were conducted. These items are in the process of being

resolved. Sherry Evans, Northrop Grumman, reported on final punch list items at the Makoshika, Fallon and North Forsyth sites. Final punch list items may need to be verified by local representatives so that final invoices may be paid.

Mark Adams, Northrop Grumman, reported on Motorola Coverage Acceptance Testing (CAT) that has begun and indicated he will be working with the Northern Tier to prioritize which sites have to have CAT completed first. Members also discussed the ProVision Software installation and learned that a computer server is being acquired on which to house the software. Installation and training will take place in March.

The next IMCM meeting is scheduled for Fri., Feb. 13 at 9:00 am. It will take place at the Northrop Grumman offices, 2401 Colonial Drive, in Helena.

## Northern Tier Consortium Meeting

By Scott Bradford [sbradford@mt.gov](mailto:sbradford@mt.gov)

The Northern Tier Consortium (NTIC) met in Havre on Thurs., Feb. 5. The most pressing issue discussed was the status of microwave connectivity and resolution of technical issues associated with delays in system acceptance. Mustafa Sunol, Harris-Stratex Microwave Corporation, provided a report on the adjustments and implementation process, with all issues being resolved save two that were going to be addressed later that day and on Friday. Crews were dispatched to Mount Royal to complete final adjustments and punch list issues. Harris-Stratex will provide final inventory sheets for Project Management and the Interoperability Montana (IM) Contract Management sub-committee to review and ensure that all contractual requirements are complete.

Sheriff Don Brostrom, Hill County, spoke for the Northern Tier Consortium and explained how critical it is to complete the microwave work and accept 'the keys' to the system to move the process forward. One important need is to establish ProVision software network monitoring, so that IM maintenance staff can diagnose and track future issues. The group is moving forward and should meet the March 1 deadline.

Other critical issues discussed included resolving generator problems involved with a specific brand of generators installed at a number of Northern Tier sites. Many are still having start-up issues and low-oil alarms. The block heaters may



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not be adequate for extreme cold conditions. Northern Tier personnel will continue to coordinate with the vendor to solve this problem.

Craig Jeffrey, United States Customs and Border Protection, led a discussion on the Operation Stonegarden grant and the approach for applying for this funding. The list of eligible entities that can apply for this grant was expanded this year; so, competition will be increased. Concerns over communications options with Border Patrol personnel and local/state law enforcement were discussed because the Border Patrol vote-scan system results in convoluted communications processes. Northern Tier members noted this is a backward turn from previous options, everyone indicated the need for improvement. Local and regional Border Patrol staff are committed to working with the Northern Tier, but are limited technically and administratively by processes implemented on a national level. All parties will work together to come up with ideas to improve field communications and raise awareness of Northern Tier interoperability efforts with Border Patrol IT and management.

Craig reported that the Border Patrol will host a Project Northstar meeting June 9-10 in Great Falls for local, state, federal and Canadian Law Enforcement. Formal announcements and invitations will be forthcoming. PSSB noted that the Western Border Interoperable Working Group will be held April 21 in Whitefish. Specific schedules will also be forthcoming.

The next Northern Tier meeting will be held Thurs., March 5, starting at 9:00 am at the Great Northern Inn, 1345 1<sup>st</sup> Street in Havre.

## IM Project Directors Conference Call

By E. Wing Spooner [espooner@mt.gov](mailto:espooner@mt.gov)

A conference call was held on Mon., Feb. 2 for Interoperability Montana (IM) Project Directors (IMPD) to take action on the IM Sustainability Plan. Members voted to refer the plan back to the IM Governance Committee for further review. They recommended that public meetings be held in conjunction with upcoming consortium meetings to solicit additional input from potential users of the IM system.

The plan provides a strong foundation, but many questions still remain. For example, many counties are still trying to figure out how

cities/municipalities will pay their fair share. Hence, the IMPD did not adopt the plan. The HAM will keep you updated on the dates and locations of upcoming public meetings.

## Upcoming Meetings

### Feb. 9

IM Finance Committee  
Helena • 9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Anderson ZurMuehlen, 828 Great Northern Blvd.

### Feb. 9

IM Governance Committee  
Helena • Noon - 5:00 pm  
Dept. of Corrections Annex, Behind 515 N. Sanders St.

### Feb. 10

IM Project Directors (IMPD) Meeting  
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
MACo Large Conference Rm., Lower Level  
2715 Skyway Drive

### Feb. 11

Central Montana Consortium (CMICC)  
Great Falls • 10:00 am  
Wheat Building • 750 6th Street S.W.

### Feb. 11

South Central Montana Consortium (SCMIC)  
**Please Note: The Feb. Meeting Has Been Cancelled!**

### Feb. 13

IM Contract Management Sub-Committee  
Helena • 8:30 am - noon  
Northrop Grumman, 2401 Colonial Drive

### Feb. 19

I-15/90 Corridor Consortium  
Butte • 10:00 am  
Butte-Silver Bow Chamber • 1000 George St.

### Feb. 23

IM Technical Committee Meeting  
Helena • 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
National Guard Helena Armed Forces Reserve Center (HAFRC) (formerly the Stark Armory)  
Corner of Euclid Ave & W. Lyndale Ave.

### Feb. 24

Western Consortium (WICC)  
Missoula • 10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
Location to be Announced

### Feb. 25

Eastern Tier (ETIC)  
Glendive • 10:00 am  
Dawson County Courthouse Community Room  
207 W. Bell

### Feb. 26

Big Sky 11 Consortium  
Billings • 10:00 am – noon  
Billings Fire Station #1/EOC - 2300 9th Ave N.